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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and New England Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency Robert Varney, announced today that the United States of America filed with the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire a Consent Decree reached by the United States Attorney's Office, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region I, and Old Dutch Mustard Company, Inc., d/b/a Pilgrim Foods regarding alleged Clean Water Act infractions at Pilgrim's plant in Greenville, New Hampshire.

The agreement addresses issues at the plant relating to storm water runoff from the facilities' raw materials and finished product tank farm, process water discharges, and an oil spill alleged to have occurred on September 8, 1998, as well as the plant's spill prevention control plans. The oil spill was of a small quantity from a maintenance facility located on-site. The spill went through the storm drain system to the unnamed brook running through the plant in Greenville, New Hampshire. When noticed, very shortly after the spill, it was contained and cleaned up. It does not appear that any significant amount of oil, if any, reached the Souhegan River, which is located several hundred yards from the plant. The process water discharged to the storm water drains, was from spills and floor wash waters through floor drains in the bottling area of the plant. There were also wash and rinse waters from exterior vehicle washings and the interior rinsing of bulk product transport tankers hauling raw and finished products. There were numerous recordings of significant changes in the pH level in the stream above and below the discharge point. pH levels can have a significant impact on aquatic life forms.

The Consent Decree seeks to ensure compliance with State and Federal Environmental laws generally and, in particular, with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and to enhance environmental management practices at the site. The Consent Decree imposes certain storm water and Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan reporting requirements, the performance of an environmental audit, and the implementation of an environmental management system. Finally, the Consent Decree imposes a \$190,000 penalty for the cited violations.

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Notice of the Consent Decree will be posted in the Federal Register for public comment.

The United States Attorney's Office commends the responsible officials of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Pilgrim Foods for their cooperative resolution of the matter. Assistant U.S. Attorney David Plourde handled this case.

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